

Mobility: immigration alert

March 2021

Canada

Canada's International Experience Canada programs now open for 2021

Executive summary

Canada's International Experience Canada (IEC) program re-opened on 1 March 2021.

Background and impact

The IEC program has been closed since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the re-opening at this time is hopefully a sign of some normalcy beginning to return to immigration processing in Canada. IEC is a Canadian temporary work permit program that offers young people (generally between the ages of 18 and 35) from certain countries whom Canada has a bilateral agreement with the opportunity to obtain a work permit to work and explore Canada. Under the IEC program there are three categories: Working Holiday, Young Professionals, and International Co-Op (internship), under which foreign nationals can apply for respective employer specific and/or an open work permit.

Key highlights of the program

- ▶ Young Professionals category - allows individuals who are young professionals (recent graduates) to obtain an employer specific work permit with an offer of employment
- ▶ International Co-op (Internship) category - applicable for students registered at a post-secondary institution, and who have a job offer for a work placement or internship in Canada as part of their program of study

- ▶ International Co-op (Internship) category - applicable for students registered at a post-secondary institution, and who have a job offer for a work placement or internship in Canada as part of their program of study
- ▶ Working holiday category - allows individuals of certain ages to obtain an open work permit, without a job offer, to work in Canada

The duration of work permits will depend on the category under which an individual qualifies, and their nationality.

For further details on the full list of countries and their respective programs please visit: [International Experience Canada: Who can apply \(cic.gc.ca\)](https://www.cic.gc.ca/International-Experience-Canada/Who-can-apply.aspx)

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional.



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